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INFORMATION FROM

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SUBJECT THE CURRENT SOVIET PORTRAYAL OF THE AMERICAN SCENE

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INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The word which most aptly describes current Soviet radio portrayal of the "so-called American way of life" is Fascist. Soviet radio propaganda tries to show that the United States cannot, by any stretch of imagination or credulity, be considered democratic. As yet, monitored broadcasts refrain from claiming that America, as a whole, is Fascist, or that the Government itself is Fascist, but the radio incessantly hammers at the following alleged attributes of Americanism, which, in the minds of its listeners, are the essential characteristics of Fascist dictatorship:

1. Control and exploitation of the majority by a very small, powerful minority.
2. Suppression of civil liberties; persecution of racial, national and opposition groups.
3. Pursuit of a chauvinistic, "aggressive," "imperialistic" foreign policy together with domestic preparation for war.

Insofar as America's "ruling circles" are concerned, the implied charge of Fascism is a constant element of current Soviet radio propaganda. But an equally constant element of the propaganda line is the profession of faith in the goodness and (pro-Soviet) progressiveness of America's "plain people." While this idea receives less emphasis, as compared with denunciation of the "ruling circles," it provides the framework for implicit representations of class struggle inside the United States. (Monitored broadcasts, however, employ very little Marxist terminology; class struggle is presented in terms of the "war makers" versus the "peace forces," the "progressives" versus the "reactionaries.") The Soviet radio's avowed sympathy for the American "people," moreover, provides a shock-absorber for its denunciations of the policies of their Government; and with only one exception,¹ monitored broadcasts have consistently excluded the possibility that the American people might support Wall Street's "aggressive plans," that, in other words, Americans might differ, in a potentially dangerous way, from the "peoples" in other parts of the world who support and love the USSR.

1 This exception was an apparently abortive deviation from the line, made in connection with Anabella Bucar's widely exploited book, THE TRUTH ABOUT AMERICAN DIPLOMATS. PRAVDA reviewer Kosev called attention to Miss Bucar's warning to the effect that many "ignorant and deceived people," members of the lowest social-economic class, "make it possible, by their passive attitude, for the bankers to play first fiddle in America." (Soviet Home Service, 1 March 1949)

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Thus the familiar "two-camps" concept provides the framework for Soviet descriptions of life inside the United States, as well as for the other non-Soviet areas of the world. Within this framework, current broadcasts propagate several inter-related themes which are allegedly descriptive of conditions in the United States. The range of topics discussed in current broadcasts about America, and the relative emphasis given to each, is roughly indicated by a tabulation of the subject matter of 163 broadcasts monitored during the period 1 April - 20 June 1949. This tabulation, given below, lists the subjects discussed and the total number of broadcasts on each subject contained in the sample:

SUBJECT OF BROADCAST	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS
(1) Economic Conditions.....	47
(specifically on economic crisis).....	19
(2) "Persecution" and Discrimination.....	41
(specifically on race discrimination).....	8
(3) "Reactionary" Trade Unions.....	15
(4) American "Progressives".....	15
(5) Congress; the Courts.....	11
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(10) Miscellaneous.....	4

The tabulation included a check on the number of times the broadcasts explicitly replied to VOUSA or American "propaganda" in general. Twenty-two direct replies were counted; of these, 16 were in the context of economic conditions, while 6 replied to the "much vaunted freedom" in America.

Certain features of this tabulation of the subject matter of Soviet broadcasts of the period under review may be briefly noted. As indicated by the tabulation, America's allegedly harrowing economic conditions receive first place; the very heavy concentration on this subject, however, is seen more clearly in the illustrations of Soviet treatment of the various subjects given in the body of this report. The economic or class exploitation argument, it will be seen, appears in all contexts, and in answer to a variety of claims and charges. Since the material for this report was prepared,

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it should be noted, emphasis on the allegedly approaching crisis in the United States has increased considerably, having gained in frequency during the period under review.¹ Another subject which received increasing stress during the period under review is that of American trade unions; during the first two weeks of June, it was noted that 10 attacks on the TU "traitors" (in the context of American, rather than international affairs) were monitored, in contrast with the 5 broadcasts recorded for the month of May.

The relatively slight emphasis on American racial discrimination, indicated by the tabulation, agrees with the general pattern of Soviet comment on the American scene noted in issues of the SURVEY OF USSR RADIO BROADCASTS over the past two years. In general, Moscow does not seem to give concentrated attention to the American Negro, except for special news occasions (e.g. Paul Robeson's tour; Dr. Bunche's statements on segregation.) The broadcast sample, however, consists almost entirely of broadcasts beamed to the Soviet and Western audiences, and does not reflect possible variations in broadcasts beamed to Asiatic and colonial audiences.

The omissions of subject matter in the broadcasts tabulated above are perhaps as noteworthy as the emphasis of current broadcasts. Omissions in the current line are of two kinds, the first being those themes which were formerly stressed, but which do not currently appear as a subject of major attention. The topics of American "militarism" and of the "reactionary bi-partisan" political system, stressed in 1948, are not now discussed in any extensive fashion. While broadcasts constantly imply or explicitly charge that America is militaristic (e.g. aggressive, fanning an "armaments race," preparing for war) the radio does not attempt to substantiate this claim, in the context of American affairs. Emphasis on American politics ~~per se~~ (which was never great) dropped sharply after the 1948 elections, at which time the radio momentarily reversed its line on the Democratic Party. Current broadcasts attempt to blacken the record of the Democratic majority in the 81st Congress, but Moscow displays none of its former moderate interest in the structure of the American political system, or in American elections.

1 More recent broadcasts regarding the economic "crisis" are discussed in detail in the SURVEY OF USSR RADIO BROADCASTS, Vol. II, No. 25, pp. H 2 - 4. The radio's non-committal treatment of this subject continues, as far as explicit predictions are concerned.

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The second type of omission in current broadcasts is the deletion and/or distortion of facts and events not amenable to the pattern. These are too numerous for discussion, but a few of the radio's most striking omissions can be briefly noted:

- (1) Non-recognition of non-Communist, liberal or left-wing forces in American politics. The recent election of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., was completely ignored in monitored broadcasts, although Soviet radio propaganda appropriated the Roosevelt name in its campaign for Wallace and against Truman in 1948. Other political and sectional distinctions are also ignored.
- (2) Marked absence of attempts to substantiate Wall Street's claimed control of all aspects of American life, although this assumption constitutes the *raison d'être* for the radio's attacks on the American way of life. The existence of State and private forces which check or regulate big business, including the existence of small business, is ignored.
- (3) Disregard of the contradiction between claimed Wall Street control of the press, and the sedulous utilization of criticism of Wall Street and the Government obtained from the American press. Similarly, the statements of "reactionary" groups, and official Government reports, are used for proof of bad conditions.
- (4) Avoidance of discussion of the liberties and safeguards provided for the individual; radio comments are confined to the "persecution of progressives" and race discrimination, and in all instances the radio attempts to equate group security with individual liberty.
- (5) Avoidance of concrete discussion of either the Soviet or U.S. standard of living; Marxist definitions of systems and incomplete or non-comparable data represent the radio's fund of arguments on economic matters.

It may also be noted, in conclusion, that the radio does not comment on trials and investigations pertaining to Soviet espionage inside America. The few references made to Gubitcher's arrest give no explanation of the circumstances of his arrest, his position in the United Nations, or the charges brought against him. Substantive comment on the trial of the American Communist politburo is similarly lacking, and to date, no reference to the Hiss and Coplon trials, or to the Hickenlooper investigation of the Atomic Energy Commission, has been monitored.

I. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS--CLASS EXPLOITATION AND "CRISIS"

The assumption of capitalist exploitation of the masses organizes Moscow's comment on the U.S. standard of living. The following broadcasts stress housing, health, and job security conditions, while wage scales, the range and abundance of consumers goods, Government and State security and welfare programs, are disregarded. Home Service listeners, in particular, are frequently treated to lurid accounts of the "misery" of the American farmer:

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"... In most American enterprises, a sick worker is deprived of all means of subsistence and his position is all the more grievous because medical service in the United States is extremely dear. Even President Truman (admitted this). ... What sort of high living standards of American labor can there be if more than 3,750,000 people in the United States have no work at all, and 9,000,000 are only partially employed? What sort of high living standards can there be talk of when, according to a statement by President Truman himself, nearly 20 percent of the housing space occupied by one-third of the population of the United States is glum. ... All these facts are very well known in the United States, of course, and the American radio would hardly risk telling American listeners all the cock and bull stories it reads to foreign listeners.

The Voice of America is so carried away by an enumeration of the non-existent services and achievements of the American unions that it boasts that these services were especially great in the fields of social insurance and social security, where unemployment insurance and old age pensions had been introduced. The radio fails to say, however, that the United States has no system of federal social insurance. Industrial and office workers are obliged to make contributions to the insurance fund out of their own wages, which means an additional tax on wages. As for the unemployment relief ..., everyone knows that in the first place it is very small; in the second place it is issued for only a restricted period; and in the third place an unemployed man is deprived of relief as soon as he refuses a job, even though the job may not suit his qualifications or desires.

"... And how about old-age pensions in the United States? This may be judged if only by the fact that last year the monthly pension totalled about 20 dollars. But according to the Federal Social Security Administration, a minimum of 160 dollars a month was needed to maintain an aged husband and wife. These pensions were totally inadequate even before the war, Federal Security Administrator, Oscar Ewing, said recently, and the war and subsequent inflation made the situation terrible.

It's ridiculous to say that American workers are free to leave their jobs and go to another factory. It's rather the employer that takes use of this right. Hundreds of companies have been discharging workers en masse lately, owing to the economic slump." (Moscow, in English to North America, 10 May 1949)

"... The U.S. propagandists thought that when (British) workers saw the wonders for themselves, they would help to spread the legend of general U.S. equality; but the British delegates thought the Ford workers at Detroit operated in inhuman conditions. They saw no smiles on the faces of the thousands of Ford workers, who looked tired and bewildered. ... What can be said about the 5 million unemployed who tramp the streets of America in search of work? Or of the 9,500,000 workers who work a short week and never know from day to day whether they will be unemployed on the morrow? The sons of the workers have to devote all their energies to the struggle for survival. 38 percent of the population lives in hovels which comprise 20 percent of the habitations. The paper of the Industrial Trade Union (CIO) says that conditions in the Chicago tenements are such that the Government regulations for the keeping of cattle would result in better conditions if enforced for humans. ... It is difficult for the son of a worker to receive education. Truman had to admit that millions of U.S. children do not attend school. An idle existence and secure position is ensured for the sons of the rich, but the sons of the worker and the farmer are doomed to be the slaves of capital and struggle all their days to eke out an existence. ... Ask the United States Negro what he thinks of general equality in the so-called U.S. earthly paradise. The legend of general equality and equal possibilities for all in the U.S. is fostered to deceive the peoples on whom the Americans want to force their notorious 'way of life' to serve a clique of U.S. imperialists who aspire to world domination." (Moscow, in Italian, 18 May 1949)

"The Catholic journal, AMERICA, on February 12, paints a grim picture of the position of seasonal workers and the impoverished farmers. 'Season after season,' says the Journal, 'hordes of American migrants move along the roads in search of work. They have no right to organize themselves in trade unions, are not protected by wage-laws, have no right for education or medical aid. These people lead miserable lives.' ... In an article dedicated to the process of losing land, the Catholic journal, COMMONWEAL, says: 'The process of pushing the population off their land and the growth of large farms working on capitalist principles is continuing. ...' (TASS, to the Soviet provincial press, 7 June 1949)

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"The picture of 'industrial slavery', Laptev writes, is characteristic not only of Texas (Where "deaths from starvation account for 75 percent of the total death rate"---ED). From one to two million agricultural migrant laborers annually wander in the United States in search of earnings. Even that half-hearted labor legislation which is in force in that country is not extended to the agricultural workers, whose number in the United States runs into 3 million people. ... A colossal army of ruined farmers, semi-starved and (ill?) on the one hand; and the monopoly organization and capitalist farms pocketing tremendous profits on the other hand--such are the two extremes of poverty and wealth exposing the myth of the "stability of small and middle (class) farming in the United States, Laptev concludes." (from an article in BOLSHEVIK; TASS, in English Morse to Europe, 19 April 1949)

Current broadcasts repeatedly cite the "threatening" symptoms of crisis reported by the American business press, and revealed in "falsified" statistics of U.S. Government agencies, but no commentator ventures an explicit interpretation of the data presented nor a prediction of when the world may expect the crisis to arrive:

"Symptoms of the approaching economic crisis in America are becoming more and more visible, and this cannot even be hidden by the officials of the country. ..." (Moscow, commentary, in Spanish to Spain, 24 May 1949)

"In an article entitled: 'The Economic Situation in the United States', Manusyan writes: 'The beginning of 1949 was marked by the growth of economic hardships in all capitalist countries. ... A trend toward a decline of the general level of world prices became apparent. The volume of industrial produce ... began to fall.' ... The author quotes data to prove the acute deterioration of the economic situation in the U.S. by the end of 1948 and the beginning of 1949. In March 1949, industrial output was 9 percent below output in October, 1948. ... The number of bankruptcies, this inevitable consequence of a crisis, is growing. ... Unable to conceal the threatening growth of unemployment, the Government economists state in comforting tones that it will hardly exceed the level of 3,500,000 to 4,000,000, while cynically calling this figure a 'healthy maximum' encouraging the workers to greater labor productivity. ...

"Much good is this heralded 'way of life' when millions of people are looked upon as manure destined to fertilize the soil for new superprofits of the monopolies! 'In the face of the economic crisis', Manusyan writes in conclusion, ... the American people will undoubtedly intensify its struggle against the attempts of Wall Street to transfer the chief burden to its shoulders." (Soviet Home Service, from a NEW TIMES article, 19 May 1949)

II. THE "PERSECUTION OF PROGRESSIVES"; RACE DISCRIMINATION

No concrete or detailed analysis of the American system of civil liberties, as expressed in law and tradition, is presented in monitored broadcasts. Moscow, instead, attempts to deny the existence of individual freedom by arguing the "persecution" of political and racial minorities. Of the several provisions the Bill of Rights, Moscow comments only on the denial of freedom of speech and press--and these freedoms are noted only by implication; other rights, such as freedom of religion, petition, and assembly, protections given the individual in criminal prosecution and in "due process of law," and the safeguards against "unreasonable searches and seizures," are ignored:

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"The Persecution of Progressive Organizations in the United States: New York-- On April twenty-second, the Governor of the State of Maryland signed a bill for the immediate passing of the most savage of all anti-democratic laws passed so far in the United States. The law is aimed first of all at announcing the Communist Party as outlawed and also threatening all other progressive organizations." (TASS, to the USSR provincial press, 25 April 1949)

"New York--After six weeks of tiresome court procedure, it becomes more and more clear that the Government accusers rely completely on the inventions of professional police spies and provocateurs in order to accuse and condemn the leaders of the American Communist Party, and declare the Party illegal. ... In striking similarity, the witnesses reiterate well-rehearsed statements, primarily describing the activity of the Communist Party as a sinister plot designed to seize control of the basic branches of industry, and secondly, describing the Communist Party as a secret weapon of the Soviet Union." (Soviet Home Service, 8 May 1949)

"... The burst of world-wide indignation prevented the British authorities from satisfying American demands for Eisler's return.... In this case a prominent figure was in question. The situation of thousands of Americans called before the FBI to give evidence is much more difficult. These are mostly active trade union members, adherents of the Wallace Party, and people suspected of sympathizing with the Communists. ... Professor Spitzer of Oregon University was dismissed because he had published an article expounding the Lysenko doctrine. Prof. Marsalka was dismissed from Yale University for participating in the Congress of the partisans of peace. The NEW YORK TIMES and NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE published reports about the purges ... in State Institutions in connection with the war hysteria. A special tribunal was set up by the Illinois Legislature for the investigation of the 'undermining activity' of Chicago students and professors. ... Ralph Hamstead, Secretary General of the American Association of University Professors, is swamped with complaints of persecuted and dismissed professors." (Soviet Home Service, in Azerbaijani, 3 June)

With regard to racial discrimination, Moscow stresses that racial and national inequality is inherent in capitalism, and that racial antagonism is increasing. Attempted reforms are ignored (e.g., the Senate fight over civil liberties) or denounced as sham (e.g. the Presidential non-segregation order). The Moscow radio's recent publicity on Dr. Bunche contrasts with its previous marked avoidance of his achievements.

"... In Georgia, a mob broke into the local prison and killed a 28-year old Negro charged with having supposedly fired a gun at a white sheriff. This recent incident is not unique. Physical violence against Negroes has become a very frequent phenomenon in modern America. Between 1900 and 1941, 3,408 Negroes were lynched in the United States, and in only the past few years, more than 40 Negroes have become victims of the lynch mob. The lynching of Negroes is an integral part of the policy of discrimination and terror which the reactionary circles of the United States pursue as regards all national minorities. ... In the United States, where so much is said about the American way of life, and about American democracy, the murder of a human being and lynch law methods are non-punishable. To this day there is no law in the United States which prohibits the lynching of Negroes." (in English to North America, 2 June 1949)

"... Ralph Bunche knows quite well what the symbolic American freedom truly means: the New York Statue of Liberty or the small boards posted up in Washington on which the words, 'for whites only', are written. It is obvious that the U.S. Congressmen are very little impressed by the fact that the American Negro citizens are treated as an inferior race, that they have to live segregated in ghettos. ... The reactionary circles of the U.S. do not in the least intend to change these conditions." (Soviet Home Service, in Polish, and Turkish, 6 June 1949)

"In the capitalist countries, equality of races is impossible. ... In the Soviet Union, under the socialist system, all races are equal." (Moscow, in Mandarin to China, 20 May 1949)

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"... The Civil Rights Congress denounced the warrants which the U.S. Courts issued on May 17th against Elser as constituting another illegal 'outrageous example of political persecution.' ..." (TASS, in English Morse to the Far East, 20 May 1949)

"Over 500 people demonstrated before Federal Prison demanding the release of the three Communist Party leaders Gates, Winston, and Hall, who had been imprisoned for alleged 'contempt of court.' ... Children's placards declared: 'Our fathers fought Fascism. Free them now!'" (TASS, in English Morse to North America, 6 June 1949)

"The DAILY WORKER reported that at the National Conference of Youth it was decided to create a new youth organization whose goal is the education of American youth in accordance with the principles of scientific socialism. 110 delegates of the Conference approved the declaration on principles, which said that the new organization 'considers the working class as the source of progress in the modern world and the defender of democratic traditions of our country, and the power capable of assuring a durable peace.' The organization will aid in stimulating an interest toward Marxism. ..." (TASS, to the USSR provincial press, 31 May 1949)

"Broad circles of the American public rallied around the American Congress for Peace. The Congress showed that failure awaited the attempt to represent the present results of the defense of peace as 'another propaganda move to Moscow.' ..." (from a PRAVDA article by Pavlenko, TASS, in English Morse to North America, 12 May 1949)

"Naturally, progressive people in the American trade union movement and in trade unions elsewhere in the world are indignant over Murray's splinter tactics, and are protesting against the arbitrary decision of the CIO union clique to withdraw the Congress from the WFTU. A number of progressive unions of America have denounced this treacherous policy, and declare that it has nothing in common with the real interests and desires of the American working class. ..." (in English to North America, 24 May 1949)

V. CONGRESS AND THE JUDICIARY

Current broadcasts rarely discuss in detail the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government; attacks on the 81st Congress are more frequent, emphasizing that the President and the Democratic Party defrauded the voters and protect Wall Street. Comment on the Judiciary, which appears more frequently in Home Service broadcasts than in foreign, emphasizes--without documentation--that the system is "anti-democratic." No discussion of the "anti-democratic" electoral system has appeared since the 1948 elections:

"Almost a year has elapsed since the Democrats, with an eye on the votes of industrial workers, included in their election platform the promise to do away with the much hated anti-labor law if elected. Now the Democrats did win the elections, with a majority in the House and Senate. ... The debates (on the Wood bill) have made it perfectly clear that the Truman Government does not intend to keep its election promise to work for unconditional rescindment of the Taft-Hartley Act.... The Wood bill retains all the main provisions of the anti-labor act.... Even before the 81st Congress convened the press of the monopolies... began... to persuade public opinion that it was supposedly inexpedient to rescind the Taft-Hartley Act. The Voice of America, for instance, quoted competent business circles as saying that the Taft-Hartley Act had allegedly opened a new era in relations between labor and capital. ... Chairman of the Democratic Party McGrath and Secretary of Labor Tobin said that certain provisions of the Taft-Hartley act should remain in force. For one thing, as Tobin explained..., the Government thought it necessary to retain the provisions that forbid trade union leaders to be Communists, and which give the Government the right to regulate strikes.

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"... (But) when it came to matters concerning military measures, Congress showed no delay, and there was no superfluous debating about the military budget, the Marshall Plan appropriations, and the many other bills... connected with the implementation of the aggressive foreign policy pursued by U.S. ruling circles today. But whenever a decision had to be taken on some problem of really vital interests to the millions of U.S. workers, such as labor legislation, the housing problem, social security, etc., the Congressmen pigeon holed (them) with general accord, or at best passed bills so thoroughly amended that little more than the name remained. The Wood Bill differs from the Taft-Hartley Act in name only. ..." (commentary by Vladimirov, in English to North America, 5 May 1949)

"... Truman promised every American peace, jobs, the repeal of the anti-labor Taft-Hartley Act, cleaning up of the slums, increases in minimum wages, social insurance, and improvement in education and medical services. ... (But) Congress and the government have been giving their chief attention to the further militarization of the country. (The) budget of 1949 (charges) three-quarters of (the total) directly or indirectly for military purposes. ... The Truman Government rejected the offer of a negotiated peace pact with the USSR. ... The ruling circles of the United States want to make the American farmers from Texas or Missouri and the workers from San Francisco and Chicago lay down their lives for American world domination. ... Such is the truth about the foreign policy of the American government and the Congress, in which the Democrats have a majority. ..." (in English to North America, 1 April 1949)

"What is the United States Supreme Court? The United States Supreme Court Judges are usually appointed from among the most reactionary bourgeois lawyers. Many of them are shareholders and the agents of some of the largest capitalist bodies. ... The Court is the country's supreme judicial body. It is the final place for hearing cases... and is the place of the first hearing of certain particularly important cases. The scope of the Supreme Court, however, in fact reaches outside the framework of legal matters. It has appropriated the right of deciding whether or not a given act is constitutional. Reactionaries use this right to repeal any law which they consider unprofitable. ... On rare occasions Congress is forced to pass relatively progressive acts. The Supreme Court, however, usually declares such acts unconstitutional. The Supreme Court also supports racial discrimination in the United States. ..." (Soviet Home Service, 7 June 1949)

VI. WALL STREET

The assumption which underlies all Soviet comment about the United States--that an indescribably evil minority of "monopolists" exercises absolute control of the country, and of the other countries "enslaved" by it--is not often discussed in detail, nor does the Radio attempt, as a general rule, to prove this assumption. Rather it conveys the idea of Wall Street domination by use of word symbols, such as "monopolist," "imperialist," "ruling circles," and by attacks on individuals, such as Bernard Baruch and the late James Forrestal. Regarding the latter, it may be noted that Moscow publicized his "insanity," but refrained from extensive comment (in monitored broadcasts). The following broadcast vividly illustrates the propaganda connotations of Wall Street, as well as the radio's typical avoidance of concrete analysis of its claimed control:

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"... The street known as Wall Street is situated in New York. ... To get to Wall Street and visit the exchange, one had to go through... the area known as the slums. On both sides of Dover street there are rows of ugly old houses, second hand shops, taverns, and pubs. Through the windows one can see the miserable furniture.... One can also see the inhabitants of these houses, whose appearance shows utter misery. ... Not far from Dover street is the Brooklyn Bridge, to which the great Russian poet Mayakovsky dedicated the following lines: 'Here life is carefree to some; to others it is only one long, hungry battle. From here the unemployed jump head first into the Hudson.'

"Near Wall Street stands the building of the New York branch of the Treasury... because it is here that State officials, in cooperation with the big bosses of Wall Street, determine financial policy; (the Treasury's) 'branch' is in Washington, from where it conveys the orders of Wall Street to the other parts of the country. The street whose name became a symbol of the giant monopolies, ruling the policy and economy of the USA and many other countries, starts from St. Trinity Church in Broadway, blackened with smoke. ... Its both ends run into cemeteries.

"The Exchange, this true financial center of the USA, is in Wall Street. The enormous hall where the exchange operations are conducted looks like a troubled ant heap. ... The Exchange relays the clashes between monopolies, the wild struggle between the magnates of financial capital to exterminate their competitors.

"Beside the exchange in Wall Street are situated the offices of the biggest representatives of the sixty families, these true masters of the U.S.A. The masters themselves do not take part in the exchange operations; they have obedient servants for this purpose. Next to the exchange stands the banking house of J. Pierpont Morgan.... The old bird of prey, Morgan, died in 1913, but his heirs continue successfully the process of accumulating their capital through plunder.... The Morgan House owns half a dozen monopoly associations.... Its influence is felt throughout the whole of the capitalist world. The Morgan group embraces 13 gigantic industrial associations, 12 trusts of public (utilities)... 11 of the largest railways, and several important financial corporations. Altogether the Morgan monopolies control enterprises with shares of 30 billion dollars. ..." (Vasiliev, Soviet Home Service, 13 May 1949)

VII. VOUGA AND THE "VENAL" AMERICAN PRESS AND RADIO

Standardized descriptions of the "monopoly press and radio" appear sporadically. Moscow does not attempt to reconcile the contradiction between the claimed "servility" of the press and its own constant use of American press sources for documentary material. For example, the broadcast sample on which this report is based includes references to COMMONWEAL, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, and THE DAILY WORKER, as well as Johannes Steele, all of which are cited for information derogatory to the United States:

"In the arsenal of venomous ideological weapons of U.S. Imperialism, the radio is on the same footing as such tools of reactionary propaganda as the press and cinema. Broadcasting in the U.S. is monopolized by four big corporations.... The majority of the broadcasting stations are the property of those very same few industrial and financial companies which control both the economic and political life of the country. Thus... the WRC and CRS depend directly on Rockefeller and Morgan, and on the banking group Lehman Brothers, Brown, Harriman, and Company. ... Conforming to the aggressive postwar foreign policy of the U.S., (domestic radio) commentaries are abock full of attacks against the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies. ... The population of the U.S. is being systematically accustomed to the idea of the inevitability of the third world war; it is being convinced of the superior power of the U.S. military machine. ... Attacks against the Soviet Union are accompanied by a reactionary campaign against U.S. Communists and against everything that is progressive and genuinely democratic. ..." (Soviet Home Service, 6 May 1949)

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Attacks on VOUSA, which are scattered throughout monitored broadcasts, do not include any extensive or detailed discussion of the organization and policies of the Soviet radio's rival. References to VOUSA are in terms of the subject at issue, and when a specific "slander" against the Soviet Union is involved, Moscow invariably adopts the strategy of defensive attack. Thus, with regard to Soviet trade unions, and the "ear splitting campaign about slave labor," Moscow attempts to change the subject:

"The ear-splitting campaign of slander launched by the American press and radio regarding the alleged forced labor existing in the Soviet Union is being accompanied by all manner of attempts to distract public attention from the deplorable labor conditions (in) America. ... For convincing proof of this, one has but to turn to... the anti-labor Taft-Hartley Act. ... The working people of the United States called this a slave law, for it doomed them in the truest sense of the word to an existence that was slave-like, and without rights. ... (The commentator scores the "ban on the closed shop," and on the "right to strike," and then turns to "anti-labor laws" of the State governments--Ed.) The magazine, THE NEW YORKER, stated that up until now only four crimes--murder, treason, rape, and kidnapping--had been punishable by death in the United States. But now the Mississippi Legislature has added a fifth: inciting to strike and committing acts of violence during strikes. ..." (in English to North America, 1 April 1949)

"... The VOA commented recently on the 10th Congress of Soviet Trade Unions.... As was to have been expected, the State Department radio was dissatisfied both with the work of the Congress and with the activity of the Soviet Trade Unions as a whole. True to its principle of slandering and lying, it hurled the wilest and most ridiculous insinuations against the Soviet Trade Unions and Soviet workers. The Soviet trade union movement was charged with everything under the sun. The unions were not free and independent, the VOA claimed, and did not defend the interests of the working people. Of course, not a single fact was cited to substantiate such an assertion, and it couldn't have been, anyway, since there are no such facts. But VOA had another reason for commenting on the Congress of Soviet trade unions... (it) attempted to advertise the notorious 'American way of life.' ... The false claims of the VOA conflict so glaringly with the facts (about America) that it doesn't take much to refute them. ..." (in English to North America, 10 May 1949)

VIII. IDEOLOGY AND RELIGION

Soviet jargon is the striking feature of broadcasts regarding American culture and philosophy; under the "imperialist" label come "cosmopolitanism," "subjective pragmatism," "racialist individualism," etc. Attacks on the American Catholic Church, though relatively infrequent, represent the only monitored comment pertaining to religious institutions in America:

"... During the war and especially in the post war period, the strengthening of the links between the Catholic Church and the ruling circles of the U.S. is noticeably growing. The U.S. government is very willing to make use of the services of the Church in the State administration. The Catholic Church has opened in Washington a university which specializes in preparing civil servants for Government offices. ... The U.S. Catholics... are even attempting to form a Government of Western Germany. Their candidate is the well known Bruening of the Weimar Republic, who is living now in America. The Papism has long supported Dr. Bruening and the American reactionaries, in the person of John Foster Dulles. Hoover and Gen. Clay's political adviser, Murphy, and Cardinal Spellman, also

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consider Bruening to be an ideal candidate.... Having penetrated into Europe in the wake of U.S. forces, the American Catholic circles are helping the U.S. to unite local reactionary forces.... The Catholic Church serves as one of the leaders of American Imperialism in its aggressive policy...." (from an article in TRUD; TASS, in Russian Hellschreiber to Europe, 27 April 1949)

"The Soviet Academy of Sciences has published the book by Prof. Baskin entitled ANGLO-AMERICAN SOCIOLOGY IN THE SERVICE OF IMPERIALISM. In this book, the author convincingly shows that the aim of modern bourgeois sociologists is the defense of the idea of imperialism in foreign and domestic policy. ... Especially popular (in America) is the book written by the greatest enemy of socialism and the countries of Peoples Democracies, Hoover, entitled AMERICAN INDIVIDUALISM. Hoover and the pseudo-scientist sociologists of the U.S.A. declare that individualism and the racial theory are the highest principles of life, and do not conceal that racial theory is the ideology of the ruling circles. Developing the idea of extreme individualism, Baskin writes that American sociologists are coming to recognize the Chicago criminal Al Capone as a super-human being." (Soviet Home Service, 4 May 1949)

"Contemporary idealism in the U.S. has developed quite openly into a typical clerical doctrine, whose sole aim it is to justify the politics of the imperialists. ... One of the branches of idealism in the U.S. is 'personalism'. It derives from phrases about human liberty and dignity (and holds) that God's will is merely the 'mystical description' of the will of the finance magnates.... The personalists are representatives of cosmopolitism, are opposing national sovereignty.... The clerical doctrine can be seen just as clearly in the teachings of Santayana. ... This obscurantist... is supporting everything reactionary, decaying, and medieval.... Pragmatism is a reactionary subjective idealist tendency of the contemporary bourgeois philosophy, proclaiming the capitalist's advantage as the only criterion of truth. This philosophy denies objective scientific truth... (and is) morally corrupting." (Moscow, in German, 29 April 1949)

IX. THE SOVIET VERSUS THE AMERICAN SYSTEM

Contrasts between life in the Soviet Union and in the United States are a regular feature of propaganda regarding the United States, although these direct comparisons of the two systems are not as frequent as are wholesale denunciations of conditions in the United States, without reference to the USSR. The format of this type of broadcast does not vary; the claimed benefits of the Soviet State are contrasted with the claimed evils in the West, and the economic evidence offered is typically incomplete:

"... It thus appears that while the economy in capitalist countries remained more or less at a standstill, the Soviet Socialist economy advanced with huge strides. ... There has not been a single year (since the 1920's) that the Soviet national economy has not climbed to a new high level. It keeps developing steadily. During the whole period of its existence, it has not experienced a single crisis or depression. The capitalist system of economy, however, suffered three devastating crises during the 20 years preceding the Second World War."

Continuing, this broadcast reiterates Marxist theory regarding the "inherent contradictions of capitalism." This type of reference to official dogma has not been a usual feature of monitored Soviet broadcasts. It has appeared recently in connection with growing Soviet radio interest in the U.S. "crisis":

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"... The inevitability of crises due to overproduction is rooted in the very essence of the capitalist system. It arises from the inherent contradiction of capitalism, the conflict between the public or social nature of the production process, and the capitalist, or private form of appropriation of the results of production. ..." (in English to North America, 20 June 1949)

X. MISCELLANEOUS: THE "ARMAMENTS RACE"; GUBITCHEV CASE; MOSCOW "MAILBAG"

Sweeping and undocumented references to the "armaments race" are typified in the following excerpts. The theme of "militarism" no longer appears as the chief subject of single broadcasts, but the idea is retained and emphasized in other contexts as if it required no proof:

"The Marshall Plan owes its origin to a considerable extent to the endeavor of U.S. monopolists to find some outlet for surplus production and therefore postpone the crisis of overproduction.... Another means of postponing the onset of the crisis is the armaments race. The view that this race gives a fillip to business activities is widely held by bourgeois economists, industrial kings, and the top bureaucrats of the United States. ... Using methods of intimidation and fanning war psychosis among the people, the U.S. militarists are presenting every year increasing demands for military credits. ... Huge sums are being spent by the U.S. Army on the implementing of the so-called Truman Doctrine. ... However, as demonstrated by the results of 1948 and the first months of 1949, the artificial priming of the U.S. industries cannot succeed in leading the economy out of its difficulties.... The armaments race and the mad schemes of world domination hatched by U.S. expansionists are bringing unemployment and want to U.S. workers." (Soviet Home Service, 24 May 1949)

The arrest and pending trial of Valentin Gubitchev has elicited very little monitored comment thus far; and what has appeared follows the pattern of Soviet comment on the Kasenkina case, in that no inkling of the circumstances or charges against the USSR, is given the listener or reader:

"New York--On April 14, a court session was held to determine the date of the hearing of the case lawlessly brought against the Soviet diplomat Gubitchev, who, as is known, was arrested in violation of international law and international customs by the American intelligence service. In court, Gubitchev declared: 'I have already said before that I was seized in the street and arrested in violation of the international immunity of the diplomat. Therefore, when I was brought to court for the first time, I declared to the Judge that my diplomatic immunity had been violated. ...'" (TASS, in Russian Hellschreiber, Abroad, and in English Morse to North America, 16 April 1949)

The "Moscow Mailbag" is another feature of Soviet broadcasts, in this case of those broadcasts which are beamed to North America. In contrast to the aggressive style which is typical in other broadcasts, the radio, in "mailbag" programs, graciously invites its listeners' comments, and answers listeners' questions in a chatty, friendly style:

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"And now we want to say 'Hello' and 'Thanks' for your letters, listeners in Sterling, Massachusetts; Providence, Rhode Island; Youngstown, Ohio, and New York City. Your detailed reception reports are at hand, and we should be very glad to hear from you again, with whatever suggestions you may have as regards future programs. Let us know what aspect of life in the Soviet Union interests you most, and we shall be very glad to answer your requests in future programs. ..." (in English to North America, 14 May 1949)

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